

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is also a clear example that the media has the interests of the powerful, and not the people at heart.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

I have a journalism degree, and when I was in school the Fairness Doctrine was in effect, and it insured that what we saw on our airwaves was fair and balanced. Now, since all of the deregulation, what we see on TV is not fair and balanced, so the public is not getting the information they need to make good decisions.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.